



Making Tracks

Editor: Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*
Layout: Rene Parker, *Administrative Staff Assistant*



Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

9 Homeschool Special Sleepy Snakes and Tired Turtles

Wednesday

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 6–9) It's getting colder. Birds fly south, bears hibernate, but what do reptiles do? How can cold-blooded animals survive our cold environment? We'll learn about hibernation through stories and activities and even meet some of Missouri's "sleepy" reptiles face to face. Siblings welcome.
Naturalist: Amy Anderson. (Reservations begin October 26.)

For Busch and Henges Range
information and activities,
please call (636) 441-4554
for a free subscription to
Conservation Connections.

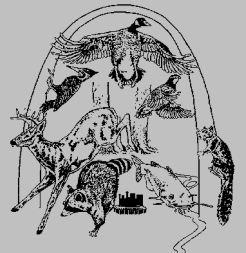
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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

November 2005 Volume 05, Number 11



Avoiding Deer/Car Collisions

By Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*

One thing is certain in St. Louis: when it's autumn, there is a vast increase in the amount of deer running out in front of vehicles. Many of us can recall instances of near misses or the unfortunate occurrence of actually hitting a deer. One of the reasons we see more deer this time of year is due to the "rut" – a period of time when male deer become more sexually active and as a result increased sightings occur.

The other reason is that Missouri, and the United States overall, has a very healthy deer herd—the explosion in the deer population has lead to the increase in deer and car collisions. In the 1980s, the total United States deer population was approximately 10 million. Today, there are more than 25 million—that means about one million deer in Missouri alone. Losses due to deer and car encounters will only increase as the deer population continues to grow and urban habitats proceed into rural environments.

So what's a driver to do? The first thing is to slow down and just be aware of the increased numbers of deer. Here are some additional tips to keep you and your family safe:



Defensive driving tips to avoid hitting a deer:

1. Be on your guard in early morning and evening hours, the most active times for deer. Continually scan the fields and area adjacent to the roadway for deer. Often you can see them approaching the roadway and can slow down.
2. Use high-beam headlights. The high beams will illuminate the eyes of deer on the roadway or approaching the roadway much sooner, allowing a greater reaction time.
3. Slow down and blow the horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away. Break firmly when you notice a deer in or near the path of the vehicle, but do not swerve. Swerving can confuse the deer as to where to run, or worse, can cause loss of control of the vehicle and cause you to hit a tree or another car.
4. A note about vehicle-mounted deer whistles – studies show time and again that deer whistles are not reliable in frightening deer out of a vehicle's path.
5. Be alert and drive with caution when moving through a deer crossing zone. But remember – deer don't read traffic signs – just because there is no deer caution sign doesn't mean you don't need to use caution at all times.
6. Always wear seat belts. Most people injured in car/deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
7. Look for other deer after one has crossed the road. Deer seldom run alone.
8. If the vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. The frightened animal, in attempting to move, could cause injury. The best procedure is to get the car off the road, if possible, and call the police if the deer is not dead. If the deer is dead call the Missouri Department of Conservation office nearest you (see inside newsletter for office numbers) for deer removal.

With a little precaution you can help to avoid the trauma of hitting a deer during the rut. For more information on deer and other forest, fish and wildlife information, log onto www.mdc.mo.gov



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Mo

waiting list. Interpretive services

proximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

3 Painting the Birds
Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
(Ages 8-18) This program will help you capture your subjects realistically. *Naturalist: Carol Jean Price.* (Reservations begin October 20.)

5 Scout Discovery Table: Poisonous & Venomous Things
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Scouts) Do you know the difference between “poisonous” and “venomous”? **Wolves:** Outdoor Adventure Elective 18g; **Webelos:** Naturalist #6; **Juniors:** Wildlife #5; Plants and Animals #9. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (No reservations necessary.)

7 “The Eagles”... The St. Louis Tour
Monday 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Families) Discover how the magnificent bald eagle became endangered in Missouri. Learn how they have been brought back to begin nesting and raising their eaglets. *Naturalist: Billy Key.* (Reservations begin October 25.)

9 How to Select & Plant a Tree
Wednesday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Adults) Planting trees isn’t to be taken casually. It requires planning, care and knowledge of their needs. *Naturalist: Linda Lopez.* (Reservations begin October 26.)

12 A Day With the Naturalist: Ted Shanks Conservation Area
Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Families of Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing) Ted Shanks CA is a great place to see migratory waterfowl. Bring water and a sack lunch. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. This program will be presented in sign language. *Naturalist: Sheri Medlock.* (Reservations begin October 28.)

12 Clark Hike & Winter Resident Birds
Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Adults) Join us for a refreshing 5.3-mile hike through the forests at Weldon Spring CA. Woodpeckers, a nuthatch, chickadee, turkeys and maybe even eagles can be spotted from this trail during November. Please dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Marv Staloch.* (Reservations begin October 28.)

12 Owl Prowl
Saturday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Families) Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s owls. Learn how owls are specially designed for night activities. We will take a short hike on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and call in some owls. Please dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin October 28.)



14 It’s Turkey Time
Monday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3-6) Learn what makes a turkey gobble...and how the turkey you eat for Thanksgiving differs from the turkey in the woods. Discover all about turkeys and make a fun craft. *Naturalist: Kathy Hellmann.* (Reservations begin November 1.)

15 Raptors of Missouri
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Learn what makes these birds of prey both masters of flight and supreme hunters. Find out why it is so important that we protect these efficient predators. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin November 1.)

17 Turkey Day
Thursday 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
(Ages 3-8) Discover the life habits of wild turkeys in Missouri. We will create turkey masks, have fun playing turkey and act out “Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving.” *Naturalist: Michaela Turner.* (Reservations begin November 3.)

21 Trackin’ with Lewis & Clark
Monday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Tracking was an important skill for Lewis & Clark. Join us as we discuss ways Lewis & Clark used this skill. Dress for the weather; we will be outside to practice our tracking skills. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker.* (Reservations begin November 7.)

Conservation Careers

Nature center visitors, hunters, teachers, concerned parents seeking advice for a child, and many others often ask about conservation careers. It is usually something like “How does one become a conservationist?” The Missouri Department of Conservation is not the only employer of conservationists. Similar agencies in other states, other agencies in Missouri, private institutions, and a few private industries employ conservationists. Six MDC career fields are explained but they are adaptable to most potential employers.

Conservation Agents are the local contact or general representative of the Department of Conservation in most counties or regions. Their primary responsibility is to enforce the laws relating to fish and wildlife. They also provide fish, forest and wildlife management recommendations to landowners, administer the hunter safety program, and provide information and education programs to local groups. A bachelor’s degree is required.

Wildlife Biologists conduct research and manage habitat. Specialized research biologists determine the needs and status of wildlife. Management biologists manipulate and manage habitat on public land and make recommendations to private landowners. A bachelor’s degree in wildlife management is required.

Fisheries Biologists conduct aquatic research and manage aquatic habitat. Some fisheries biologists manage fish hatchery operations. They strive to make sure good fishing opportunities are available for people. They also advise landowners who have ponds or streams on their property. A bachelor’s degree in fisheries management is required.

Foresters guide and coordinate the management of forest resources. They conduct inventories of forest resources and guide the harvest and planting of trees. They recommend measures for the control of insect and disease problems and the prevention and suppression of forest fires. Some foresters specialize in urban forestry. A bachelor’s degree in forestry is required.

Private Land Conservationists utilize general skills of the wildlife biologist, fisheries biologist and forester as they provide resource management advice to private landowners. When necessary they request the assistance of the specialized biologist (fisheries, forestry and wildlife) but the PLCs usually provide the necessary information requested by private landowners. As with the other management fields, a bachelor’s degree in one of the resource management fields is required.

Interpretive Naturalists and Conservation Educators coordinate interpretative programs and facilities and provide training for teachers and youth leaders. They coordinate guided hikes, lectures and workshops for all age groups. They also plan and maintain exhibits, trail guides, interpretative literature, newsletters like this one and audio visual items. A bachelor’s degree in biology, zoology, botany, environmental education or a related field is required.

When seeking a career in conservation, one is urged to select a good college, do well with grades, get some experience even if it is volunteer work, be willing to move, and concentrate on communication skills. There are more applicants than jobs but conservation careers provide many rewards and a modest income. No one is practicing a conservation career for the money. The professionals are committed to providing a service to people and to the betterment of the resource. An informative booklet titled *Conservation Careers* is available at most MDC locations.

In a way, you may already be a conservationist! Conservation is a philosophy or a way of life, based on common values and a concern for the future. It means using resources wisely or in such a way that we can have some for future use. It means living in harmony with ecological laws and sharing limited natural resources in an equitable way. If you share this philosophy, you are truly a conservationist. You can practice it in your career, your hobbies, and at home. It takes all of us working together to insure resource use and enjoyment for the future.

Rockwoods Reservation

November 2005 Page 6

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Mo waiting li

Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

Woods Avenue; left on Woods

4 Wild about Persimmons

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) It's that time of year when persimmons are ripe. From mouth-watering cakes and cookies to smooth-spreading butter, so much can be made with this delectable fruit! Join us as we delve into persimmons and try our hand at making a few scrumptious treats. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin October 20.)



5 Making Natural Soap the Old-Fashioned Way

Saturday 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us for a morning of fun as we try our hand at making soap the old-fashioned way. We will explore how wildlife played a critical role in this process and how soap making has changed today. Please dress for the weather, as portions of the program will be outdoors. *Naturalist: Karen Kelly.* (Reservations begin October 21.)

Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones

Michaela Turner.....	100 hours
Karen Savitskij.....	100 hours
Robert Zeigler.....	500 hours
John Ruprecht.....	1000 hours

8 Raptors of Missouri

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Raptors are magnificent and highly specialized birds at the top of their food chains. Come learn what makes these birds of prey both masters of flight and supreme hunters. Find out why it is so important that we protect these efficient predators. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin October 27.)



12 Lime Kiln Trail Hike

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) There is no better way to get “up close and personal” with a Missouri forest than a 3 ¼-mile hike along the Lime Kiln Trail. Get out and enjoy Missouri's refreshing weather and spectacular fall hues. We will watch for signs of the changing seasons and the changes within the forest. Please wear hiking shoes to enjoy the beauty found at Rockwoods. (Reservations begin October 31.)

18 Owl Prowl

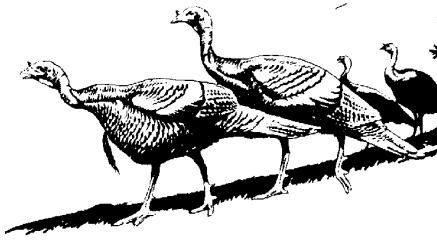
Friday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us for an introduction to Missouri's resident owls. Come learn how owls are specially designed for night activities. We will take a short hike to listen and call in some owls. Please dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Jean Favara.* (Reservations begin November 4.)

19 Turkey Trek

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Come join us for a pre-Thanksgiving hike on the Turkey Ridge Trail. We will learn about these magnificent birds, and maybe even be lucky enough to spot some turkeys along the way! Please dress for the weather. Please meet at the trailhead parking area. *Naturalist: Sally Roberts.* (Reservations begin November 7.)



22 Making Native American Cordage

Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 10 & up) Come learn how to make rope the way the Native Americans did. We will learn how they used plants and animals to make fishing nets, bowstrings and more. We will even try our hand at making some ourselves. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin November 8.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

November 2005 Page 3

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 W

our waiting list. Interpretive services are av

north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

2 Retiree River Ramble

Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 18 & up) Come enjoy a leisurely 3-mile hike with us at Fort Bellefontaine to see the autumn changes. This month we will be looking at the end of the fall colors, migrating waterfowl and signs of the upcoming winter season. Maybe we can spot some early arrivals of the bald eagle migration. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin immediately.)

Scout Discovery Table:

5 Endangered Species

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Are bald eagles and bison still endangered species? What about passenger pigeons or barn owls? Find the answers to these and other questions about which species are endangered in Missouri. **Bears** can work on Sharing Your World With Wildlife (Achievement #5e). **Brownies** can work on What's Out There: Eco-explorer #5 and **Junior Girl Scouts** can work on Lets Get Outdoors: Wildlife #6. All are welcome. (No reservations necessary.)

Columbia Bottom Volunteer Milestones

Pat Behle.....	500 hours
Lena Dowers.....	500 hours
Andra Stanley.....	200 hours
Denise Moorman.....	100 hours

5 Myth Busters: Deer Hunting

Saturday 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Not the avid hunter? Do you wonder what all the fuss is about during deer season? Together let's investigate the benefits of hunting deer and explore what makes deer season such an exciting time. Find out why deer hunting in Missouri is an enjoyable and tasty investment in our future. Bring your appetite – we'll even taste samples of fine venison cooking. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin immediately.)

9 Homeschool Special: What's Lost, What's Left?

Wednesday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Missouri's plant and animal life have changed quite a bit since Lewis & Clark were here. We will explore the differences and find out what we can learn from those changes. We will also discover Missouri's endangered, rare and common species found at Columbia Bottom. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin October 26.)

12 Preparing for Winter

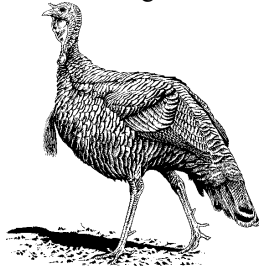
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 2-6) Come discover what animals do to prepare for the cold weather. Explore various kinds of shelter used by animals, and learn what they eat! We will listen to stories about animals, play games and make a craft to take home. *Volunteer Naturalist: Andra Stanley.* (Reservations begin October 29.)

18 Gobble, Gobble!

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 2-6) Can you gobble like a tom turkey or yelp like a hen turkey? What is life like for a wild turkey? Join us as we discover what turkeys eat and other interesting facts about these large birds. We'll read stories, play games and make some turkey tracks and other crafts to take home. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin November 4.)



19 Where the Great Rivers Become One: Columbia Bottom's Story

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Columbia Bottom is the dynamic bottomland where the two great rivers of North America become one. We will look back to the constantly changing conditions of the bottom and the ownership of the land. We will look at the present conditions and use of the bottomland. And, we will look at the future that is planned for the bottomland and its inhabitants. Our journey will begin in the Visitor Center and end at the confluence where the great rivers become one. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin November 4.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Mo wai

Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

5 Scout Discovery Table: Endangered Species

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Are bald eagles and bison still endangered species? What about passenger pigeons or barn owls? Find the answers to these and other questions about which species are endangered in Missouri. **Bears** can work on Sharing Your World with Wildlife (Achievement #5e). **Brownies** can work on What’s Out There: Eco-explorer #5 and **Junior Girl Scouts** can work on Let’s Get Outdoors: Wildlife #6. All are welcome. (No reservations necessary.)

7 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will hike Hickory Ridge Trail to see what nature has to offer us in winter. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin October 24.)

8 Talkin’ Turkey

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 3-6)) It’s that time of year. It’s time to talk turkey! Learn about the life of a turkey through fun activities and stories. Create turkey stationery to mail for Thanksgiving. *Staff Naturalist: Jada Barhorst.* (Reservations begin October 25.)

HOMESCHOOL

The Owls Have It!

8 Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) What is “It”? Well, “It” is a host of adaptations that make owls unique. We’ll study owl adaptations and dissect their pellets to see what they eat. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin October 25.)

12 River and Forest Photo Walk at Emmenegger Nature Park

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Ages 15 & up) We’re going to “shoot the works” at Emmenegger Nature Park located off Cragwold Road just west of the Powder Valley entrance. We will walk a forest-covered trail along the Meramec River and in the hills photographing autumn surprises along the way. We will meet at the Emmenegger pavilion. *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin October 28.)



SCOUTS

Orienteering and Finding Your Way

12 Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7 & up) Scouts who are looking to learn or improve their outdoor navigation skills are invited to join us at Emmenegger Nature Park to learn map reading and compass use. The program qualifies as part of the requirements for the “Orienteering” Merit Badge and Interest Project as well as the “Finding Your Way” badge. We will meet at the Emmenegger pavilion. *Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy.* (Reservations begin October 28.)

21 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to see what nature offers us in winter. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin November 7.)

22 Gobble, Gobble, Wobble

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Join us for everything turkey! We’ll have stories, crafts, facts and fun. See you here! *Volunteer Naturalist: Janyce Beyer.* (Reservations begin November 8.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Nature Films For November 2005

November 5 & 6

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Spiders
Eyewitness: Mammal
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Volume 5: Hunting & Shooting (Disc 7)

November 12 & 13

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Weather
Eyewitness: Bird
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Attracting Birds to Your Backyard
Basics of Bird Photography
Big Rivers

November 19 & 20

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Life
Eyewitness: Survival
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Triumph of Life: (Nature)The Four Billion Year War
Triumph of Life: (Nature)The Mating Game
Return of the Wild Turkey

November 25, 26 & 27

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
I Dig Fossils
Eyewitness: Prehistoric Life
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Triumph of Life: (Nature) The Eternal Arms Race
Triumph of Life: (Nature) Winning Teams
Living Landscape

Shown in the Auditorium - Free of Charge - Groups Welcome!
Children’s films (Usually) 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
All Ages films 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Films are subject to change.
No reservations necessary.

November Hallway Exhibit



The Society of Independent Artists of St. Louis

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is proud to present The Society of Independent Artists of St. Louis as the November Hallway Exhibit artists.

The Society of Independent Artists of St. Louis was founded in 1931 when several area artists felt the need of such an organization in the St. Louis vicinity. Since that time the Society has grown to be one of the best known and most active associations in St. Louis. It annually contributes a substantial sum of money to promote interest in the arts through scholarships and prize money.

The purposes for which the Society was formed are charitable, literary and educational: to promote mutual good fellowship, support freedom of expression for all styles of original art, to encourage development of proven talent, to further matters relating to the fine arts field, to aid and assist art students and to add to their general knowledge of all the arts.

The Society contributes to a scholarship fund for junior college art students to aid them in their growing art years. Contributions are also made to the Philharmonic Society, Friends of the Art Museum, Station KETC Educational TV and the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis.

SHOP EARLY!

Powder Valley Nature Center and Gift Shop will be closed on November 24, December 24 and 25.

Best wishes from our staff and volunteers for a wonderful holiday season!

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Pat Harris.....	3800 hours	Art Paule.....	4100 hours
Mary Hittler.....	700 hours	Ron Pohle.....	1800 hours
Bill Maass.....	3600 hours	Dick Wasson.....	4200 hours